



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 13, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Specialist *DJ*

RE: Site Inspection, Uintah Mountain Copper Company, Sunshine Hematite Claims, M/013/002,
Duchesne County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 26, 2001

Time of Inspection: 10:30 a.m.

Conditions: Overcast, Cool

Participants: Chauncie Todd, Jeff DeFreest - USFS; Wayne Hedberg, Doug Jensen - DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To verify current conditions of the project area.

We met with Chauncie at the Vernal, USFS office at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the site before we drove out to the mine site. Chauncie informed us that the Forest Service EA on this site was almost complete and they would be sending it out very soon.

Background Information

I asked about the road issue that was a problem with our reviewing Uintah Mountain Copper Co's (UMCC) last submittal. This 6.5 mile road was originally built and used by Uintah Mountain under a USFS special use permit. Chauncie informed us that the Forest Service had taken over responsibility for the access road leading to the mine with the exception of the upper 2000 feet just below the mine. The 6.5 mile road was originally engineered by the Forest Service and was built by UMCC in 1979-80 in replacement of the original mine access road which ran along Slate Creek.

I also asked about the campsite associated with this permit. This area was described in the original permit documents as a five acre area. Chauncie stated that he estimated the camp at approximately 1 ½ to 2 acres and is considered by the Forest Service as a part of this permit.

Chauncie inquired if DOGM would require a separate bond for this area. Wayne stated that we would recognize the bond held by the Forest Service if it was held jointly.

We left the Vernal office to inspect the site. We picked up Jeff DeFreest at the Roosevelt FO and proceeded to the mine.

Field Observations

The mine access road is located off the Moon Lake Resort road, and behind a locked gate. The camp site is located several hundred yards off the Moon Lake road. The camp site presently is comprised of a tool storage shed (8' x 20') and a small covered work table area (approx. 20' x 20'). Photos were taken of the camp site.

The campsite is located in an open area in a grove of quaking aspens. The area of the camp is presently covered with grass and appears to be heavily impacted by cattle. Reclamation of the camp site will require a minimal amount of effort. The removal of the structures and a few power poles leading to the camp site area may suffice. There is some uncertainty about the ownership of this short power line that supplies the camp site.

UMCC has proposed a small processing area (~1/4 acre) on the lower edge of the camp site. Chauncie stated that the Forest Service may require some type of liner be placed on this area due to the staining potential of the material being hauled down from the mine.

We passed through another locked gate above the campsite and drove the 6.5 mile haulroad to the mine. For the most part, this road is in pretty good shape considering that it has not had any maintenance yet this year. Pine trees have started to grow into many areas along the road bed. There was another gate (which was not locked) located near the top of the road. Chauncie stated that the road from that point was UMCC's reclamation responsibility. There was a small pile of hematite ore material dumped above the gate within the area of UMCC's responsibility. This area will be used as a staging and truck turn-around area for material from the mine. Here the ore will be placed into trucks and taken to the processing area at the campsite.

The 2000 foot portion of the road and the minesite are located at ~10,000 ft. in a very steep portion of the mountain. Because of this, most of the access road, drill roads and the minesite have significant amounts of side cast material that will have to be pulled back when these areas are reclaimed. Reclamation of these features will probably require the use of a large trackhoe or equivalent. Because this site is located in a very harsh, alpine environment, care will need to be taken when final reclamation is done to assure long-term stability of the site. A portion of this upper access road is in poor condition and will require maintenance before vehicles can be used to access the mine site.

There are several areas within the mine site area that have small amounts of grass growing. These grassy areas were probably a result of UMCC's reclamation attempts. Although some areas do reflect an attempt at reclamation, these areas are being reimpacted as additional work is done in the area. None of the adjacent drill roads near the mine site reflect any reclamation attempts. The Forest Service does not consider any of the areas within the project site to be reclaimed or released.

Conclusions & Recommendations

There is one portion of the mine where UMCC had placed gabion baskets (rock filled wire baskets) to stabilize the area. UMCC has proposed opening a small test pit just up-gradient of this area. It has been proposed by UMCC that the test pit area be stabilized, after mining, with additional gabion baskets.

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Chauncie pointed out that UMCC has proposed removing 600 tons of material from this test pit. Because of the steep nature of the area where the material is proposed to be removed, some type of slope stabilization will be necessary. The gabion baskets seem to be a viable utilization of existing resources to serve that purpose. Chauncie stated the Forest Service has requested that baskets built in the future, utilize unaltered rock as a source. Some of the rock in existing baskets contain some altered and weathered rock which may cause failure of the baskets in the future.

Attached are pictures taken of both the camp and mine site areas. The inspection ended at this point and we returned to Roosevelt.

jb

Attachment: Photos

cc: Peter Kandarlis, Uintah Mountain Copper
Jeff DeFreest, USFS, Roosevelt FO
Chauncie Todd, USFS, Vernal FO

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